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**REGISTERED TO PRACTICE BEFORE  
U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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April 28, 2004

Serial Number: 10/706,500  
Filed: November 12, 2003  
Applicant: David Tropp  
Title: Method of improving airline luggage inspection  
Group Art Unit: 3676

Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Attached is a completed Form PTO-1449 and copies of the pertinent parts of the references cited thereon. Below are comments on these references pursuant to Rule 98:

U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2003/0089147 A1 to Yang discloses a dual mechanism lock comprising a combination lock, a key lock having an internal cylinder and an external cylinder, and a fixing plate embedded into a fixing groove on the external cylinder.

U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2002/0139155 A1 to Franzen discloses a closure equipped with a combination lock, a catch member of a first closure part positioned in a catch inlet opening of a second closure part.

U.S. Patent No. 6,598,434 to Yang discloses a dual mechanism lock comprising a combination lock structure, a key lock having an internal cylinder, and a fixing plate embedded into a fixing groove on the external cylinder.

U.S. Patent No. 6,508,089 to Tsai discloses a lock used for cabinets in public places, in which the number of lock can be reset when used to secure the items of users.

U.S. Patent No. 5,485,734 to Yang discloses a combination lock integrating the key lock performance into a combination lock, so that it can be unlocked by a supplement key when the combination has been forgotten.

U.S. Patent No. 6,598,434 to Yang discloses a dual mechanism lock comprising a combination lock structure, a key lock having an internal cylinder, and a fixing plate embedded into a fixing groove on the external cylinder.

U.S. Patent No. 5,345,798 to Nakai discloses a code lock device comprising an activator responding to a release operation and a locking operation, and an actuation which performs reciprocating motion and normal and reverse rotation.

U.S. Patent No. 5,237,842 to Rasch et al. discloses a luggage latch for securing together two relatively movable parts which has a latch housing on one of the parts, a latch components on the other, and a keeper.

U.S. Patent No. 4,885,923 to Nakai discloses a lock applied to an opening-closing part of a locker for rent or the like comprising a combination lock in a movable member with a locking mechanism having a cam plate and dual lock.

U.S. Patent No. 4,770,013 to Nakai discloses a combination lock applied to an opening-closing part of a locker for rent or the like comprising a locking mechanism having a cam plate engaging with and disengaging from a catching part of a main unit side and a dual lock having a plurality of dials.

U.S. Patent No. 4,671,088 to Jeang discloses a lock including three main elements, an actuating plate, a plurality of numbered wheels, and a lock body.

U.S. Patent No. 4,557,122 to Hwang discloses a combined combination and key-type lock which has both a combination lock and a key-type lock.

U.S. Patent No. 4,499,745 to Ricouard et al. discloses a lock comprising a rocker pivoting about a spindle and returned elastically towards a rest position, a cylinder rotatable under action of a key, and a plurality of rotating serrated wheels.

U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2002/0198731 A1 to Barnes discloses an apparatus and method for expediting customs and immigration processing.

U.S. Patent No. 4,137,567 to Grube discloses a system for processing passengers and their luggage at civil airports including a passenger processing counter for verifying airline tickets and confirming passenger identity, equipment for conveying large luggage, and installations for performing security check.

U.S. Patent No. 5,274,356 to Taricco discloses methods and apparatus for inspection of air cargo including passenger luggage for pressure sensitive bombs.

U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2002/0129628 A1 to Skalberg discloses a luggage, baggage and package security device having a lock box and nylon, steel reinforced strap that is wrapped around a container and adjustably and securely drawn into the lock box.

U.S. Patent No. 5,089,692 to Tonnesson discloses an individual electronic locking unit of the type which is re-coded to the code associated with a new key means and at the same time makes the previously used code invalid by the introduction of new key means having a new code.

U.S. Patent No. 5,507,161 to Broekaert et al. discloses a device for locking the closure mechanism on an item of luggage

which includes a movable rod which drives a movable clasp bolt on one part of the luggage.

U.S. Patent No. 5,582,049 to Mauer discloses a combination lock having four dial buttons arranged in a lock box in a rectangular fashion with a handle driving a bolt which is controlled by the dial buttons.

U.S. Patent No. 6,173,592 to Te Yu discloses a lock for a suitcase which includes a base on the base portion of the suitcase and an engaging part on the cover of the suitcase.

U.S. Patent No. 6,513,356 to Yang discloses a dual mechanism lock, wherein a combination lock structure is embedded into an external cylinder by a flexibly moving fixing plate, a combination wheel mechanism.

U.S. Patent No. 6,568,225 to Chang discloses a theftproof lock device for a suitcase which includes a housing, and a closure plate mounted on an opened side of the housing, and multiple number wheel sets, two opposite press members, a drive plate, a slide, and a circuit board.

W.I.P.O Patent No. WO 03/003144 A2 to Barnes et al. discloses a method and an apparatus to ease the processes of customs and immigration for international passengers.

French Patent No. FR2686493 to Sorel Jean discloses a left-luggage locker unit with individual door hinged to a general inspection door.

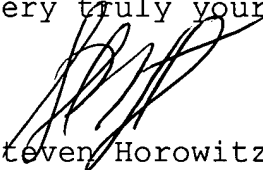
European Patent No. EP0414165 to Juergen et al. discloses a permutation lock for suitcases, bags or the like, having a plurality of number discs and blocking sleeves.

The article "Making Up for the Blackout" by Audrey Warren in The Wall Street Journal for August 20, 2003.

None of the above items discloses a method of making airline luggage inspection secure while accommodating the needs of the traveler comprising making a special lock available to airline travelers, the special lock having a combination lock portion and a master key lock, the master key lock portion receiving a master key that can open the master key lock portion of any special lock of this type, wherein the special lock is designed to be applied to an individual piece of airline luggage and has an indicia thereon conveying to luggage purchasers that the special lock is "approved" by a luggage screening authority and conveying to the luggage screening authority that the

special lock can be opened using the master key, wherein the method includes providing the luggage screening authority directly or indirectly with exclusive access to the master key, wherein the manufacturers and/or providers of the master key and special lock retain copies of the master key.

Very truly yours,



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FORM PTO-1449  
REV. 7-00

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTY. DOCKET NO.

SERIAL NO.

10/706,500

APPLICANT

David Tropp

FILING DATE

11/12/2003

GROUP

3676

LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
AA	US2002/008947A1	5/15/2003	Yang	70	284	11/9/2001
AB	5345798	9/13/94	Nakai	70	284	4/2/93
AC	4770013	9/13/88	Nakai	70	285	10/26/87
AD	US2002/019873A1	12/26/02	BARNES et al.	705	1	6/26/01
AE	4137567	1/30/79	Grube	364	567	10/21/75
AF	5274356	12/28/93	Taricco	340	515	5/17/93
AG	US2002/129628A1	9/19/02	Skalberg	70	18	3/1/02
AH	US2002/139155A1	10/3/02	FRANZEN	70	213	11/7/01
AI	4499745	2/19/85	Ricouard et al.	70	285	1/29/81
AJ	4557122	12/10/85	Hwang	70	312	8/25/83
AK	4671088	6/9/87	Jeang	70	312	2/6/85

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION
						YES NO
AL	W003/003144A2	1/9/03	W.I.P.O./US	G06F		X
AM	FR2686493	7/30/93	France			X

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

AR	Article "Making up for the Blackout" by Audrey Warren, The Wall Street Journal, August 20, 2003
AS	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.



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(Use several sheets if necessary)

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## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
AA	4885923	12/12/89	Nakai	70	284	2/29/88
AB	5089692	2/18/92	Tonnesson	235	382.5	7/29/88
AC	5237842	8/24/93	Rasch et al.	70	285	12/10/91
AD	5485734	1/23/96	Yang	70	285	12/8/93
AE	5507161	4/16/96	Broekaert et al.	70	71	12/20/93
AF	5582049	12/10/96	Mauer	70	312	12/14/94
AG	6173592	1/6/99	Te Yu	70	69	6/11/99
AH	6508089	1/21/03	Tsai	70	213	3/27/02
AI	6513356	2/4/03	Yang	70	213	11/9/01
AJ	6568225	5/27/03	Chang	70	69	2/20/02
AK	6598434	7/29/03	Yang	70	213	11/9/01

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
AL	EPO 414165	2/27/91	European Pat. Office/DE	EP	3760		X
AM							

## OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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DATE CONSIDERED

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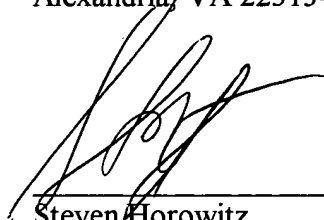


## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that on April 28, 2004, in connection with patent application no. 10/706,500, METHOD OF IMPROVING AIRLINE LUGGAGE INSPECTION, I deposited: (i) 7 pages of **Information Disclosure Statement** (ii) form PTO-1449 (iii) copies of prior art references (iv) this Certificate of Mailing and (v) an Acknowledgement postcard

with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the address below:

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



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